

Corporate Decision Creates Crisis for 27 Vermont Organic Dairies

By Anson Tebbetts, Secretary,
Vermont Agency of Agriculture,
Food & Markets

The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets knows this is a very anxious and concerning time for dairy farmers that sell their milk to Horizon. Twenty-eight dairy farmers in Vermont were notified in August by Horizon they will stop buying their milk by September of 2022. This goes beyond Vermont as well, as farmers in New York, New Hampshire and Maine were also given the same message.

The Agency has created a task force to try to help these famers. It began its work in August. This group will examine options for these businesses. The task force includes,



buyers of organic milk, cooperatives, feed dealers, NOFA, The Vermont Farm Bureau, farmers, the Cheese Council and Vermont Farm & Forest Viability. It will take some time to develop strategies, but many people are around the table trying to help. The public has also reached out offering their support to the project.

We are talking with officials in New York, Maine, New Hampshire, and members that work with the United States Department of Agriculture in Washington. It's also caught the attention of the Congressional delegation from Vermont.

Diane Bothfeld from the Agency will lead the task force. Diane has a rich history working with dairy farmers on projects. The goal of the task force is to get as many options together for the farms impacted as possible. Each option will be reviewed and clarified to make sure it is a valid option and provided to farmers with a specific contact information.

The task force has five working groups:

1. **Farmers** – information, communi-

- cation, outreach, and assistance
2. **Processors** – check with processors for willingness to process additional milk and organic milk, assistance for the willing to move forward, equipment, facility, marketing, and connection to farmers
3. **Funding** – farmer and processor funds – grants, loans, foundations, lenders
4. **Organic Standards** – address concerns with organic standards that create differences across the nation
5. **Regional Coordination and Activities** – the Danone/Horizon pull out impacts New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine. Many organizations have contact in each state. Keep organized and collaborate as possible.

continued on page 15

AGRiVIEW

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

116 State Street

Montpelier, Vermont 05620-2901

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org

US Postage

PAID

Permit #10

White River Jct VT

Inside This Issue

Help with Past Due Utility Bills. Page 2

Food System Plan: Agricultural Literacy ... Page 3

What Counts as a Produce Farm? Page 4

NE-DBIC Grant Page 5

Ag Sector Ransomware Attacks. Page 6

Produce Safety Bite: Packing and Storing. . . Page 7

Invasive Spotted Lanternflies Found ... Page 8

Capital Equipment Assistance Program ... Page 9

Vermont Vegetable and Berry News Page 10

ClassifiedsPage 11

Stony Pond Farm. Page 13

Upcoming Grant OpportunitiesPage 14

4-H News.Page 15

Help with Past Due Utility Bills from The Vermont Department of Public Service

By Department of Public Service

The 2021 Vermont COVID-19 Arrearage Assistance Program (VCAAP II) provides financial support to customers who may face disconnection of service because of past-due balances for their electric, landline telephone, Vermont Gas (natural gas), water or sewer/wastewater charges.

Vermonters financially impacted by COVID-19 (either directly or indirectly) with 30+ days overdue charges can get help now to pay their arrearages for residential (both

homeowners and tenants) and non-residential accounts.

Additionally, both residential account holders and businesses can get assistance for accounts 30+ days in arrears, that were billed after April 1, 2020, and were closed while the COVID-19 pandemic emergency was in effect between April 1, 2020, and June 15, 2021.

Homeowners may only apply for a grant for their primary residence.

Residential assistance is available for up to a total of \$10,000; businesses can receive up to a total of \$50,000.

If you do not have access to the internet or have difficulty applying online, you can get help from your local Community Action Agency (CAA) at <https://vermontcap.org>.

Click on your town to find your local CAA.

To apply go to: <https://publicservice.vermont.gov/content/help-past-due-utility-bills-vermont-department-public-service>, or call the toll-free number 833-295-8988. Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 7:00 pm and Saturday 9:30 am to 1:00 pm.

CONNECT
WITH US



@VTAGENCYOFAG



Assistance for Timber Harvesters & Haulers

By U.S. Department of Agriculture

If you're a business that harvests or hauls timber and you were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, you may be eligible to receive relief payments from a newly established program from the USDA. The Pandemic Assistance for Timber Harvesters and Haulers (PATHH) program provides financial assistance based on a business's gross revenue comparisons between 2019 and 2020.

To calculate relief payments, the USDA will subtract a business's 2020 gross revenue from their 2019

gross revenue and multiply that figure by 0.8. \$200 million has been allocated to this program. Depending on demand, eligible applicants may receive up to \$125,000. To be eligible, businesses must have derived 50% of their gross revenue from harvesting or hauling timber and must have experienced at least a 10% loss in gross revenue due to the pandemic.

Applications are being accepted now through October 15, 2021 and can be submitted to your local USDA Service center via mail, fax, hand delivery or electronic means.

This Month's Recipe

Apple Bacon Mac and Cheese

What's not to like about this combination?!

Yield: 4-5 • Prep Time: 15 minutes • Cook Time: 30 minutes • Total Time: 45 minutes

Ingredients

- 1/2 pound dried pasta (elbows, shells, your choice)
- 1/2 pound bacon, chopped
- 1/2 large sweet onion, chopped
- 1 firm, crisp apple, seeded and chopped
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 8 ounces shredded cheese, pick your favorites – cheddar and gouda come to mind – mix them up!
- salt & pepper

Instructions

1. Bring water to a boil in a large pot over high heat. Add the pasta and cook until al dente (do not overcook!).
2. Drain the pasta and set aside. Return the pot to the stove and set the heat to medium. Add the chopped bacon and cook until the fat has rendered, about 6-8 minutes. Remove the cooked bacon with a slotted spoon and reserve the



bacon grease in the pot.

3. Add the onions to the pan. Sauté for 3 minutes, using a wooden spoon to scrape up any brown bits on the bottom of the pan. Add the apples and

sauté for another 3 minutes. Remove the onion and apples from the pan and set aside with the cooked pasta. Carefully

continued on page 15

AGRIVIEW

(UPS 009-700)

Agriview is Vermont's Agricultural Publication of Record.

It is published monthly by the Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food & Markets, 116 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05620-2901

Telephone: (802) 828-1619

www.Agriculture.Vermont.gov

ANSON TEBBETTS, Secretary
Agency of Agriculture,
Food & Markets

TERRY SMITH
Editor

FAITH RAYMOND, Managing Editor

SCOTT WATERMAN, Contributing Editor

Advertising and subscriptions:
E-mail: agr.agriview@vermont.gov

The State of Vermont is an Equal Opportunity/
Affirmative Action Employer and Provider.

VERMONT AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEM PLAN 2021 – 2030: Agricultural Literacy, K-12

Editor's note: This brief is part of the Vermont Agriculture & Food System Plan 2021-2030 submitted to the legislature in January 2021. To read the full plan, please go to <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/document/vermont-agriculture-and-food-system-strategic-plan-2021-2030>

Lead Author: Dana Hudson,
Shelburne Farms

Contributing Authors: Suzanne Buck, VT Future Farmers of America Association; Jackie Folsom, VT Farm Bureau; Liz Kenton and Sarah Kleinman, UVM Extension 4-H; Helen Rortvedt, NOFA-VT; Betsy Rosenbluth, Shelburne Farms, VT FEED; Vera Simon-Nobes, Shelburne Farms, Farm-Based Education Network

What's At Stake?

Almost everything we eat, wear, or use comes from a plant or animal on a farm, but we are losing the knowledge of how to grow food, work on farms, and cook with whole ingredients. Americans' physical separation from farms, declining direct involvement in farming, and dependence on consolidated national and global food supply chains sets up the next generation of Vermonters to lack knowledge and experience for self-reliance in this changing world, especially given climate change and global health pandemics. For Vermonters to be knowledgeable local food consumers and agricultural

advocates, they need food and farm experiences throughout their lives. Starting with the earliest learners, the populace needs to be connected to the land and Vermont farmers, taught basic knowledge and skills in food and farming, shown the connection to other issues including climate and water, and develop work ethics and transferable skills.

Current Conditions

There is a growing national movement to increase agricultural knowledge via the K-12 educational system. Many Vermont students receive some form of agricultural education, but it is variable across the state. Vermont is a recognized leader in K-12 Farm to School (FTS) programs and offers traditional agricultural career path options for older students. However, Vermont lacks a coordinated approach to embedding agriculture education into all students' learning. Individual teachers must be confident, creative, motivated, and knowledgeable in place-based agricultural education integration to offer their students these opportunities.

Professional development opportunities are available to

educators (pre-K-12) on food and agricultural curriculum integration through Vermont's Farm to School grant program, the Farm to School Institute, and the organizations that make up the Vermont Farm to School Network. Career and Technical Education

(CTE) and Future Farmers of America (FFA) remain the lead options for high school students to pursue agricultural career training, although an increasing number of middle and high schools are incorporating greenhouses, food system studies, and school gardens. School cafeterias are also important classrooms for improving agricultural literacy (see School Food Procurement brief).

Nonprofits and farm businesses throughout the state offer family programs, on-farm school field trips, after-school experiences, and summer camps. County fairs, 4-H, festivals, and farm-to-community programs provide out-of-school agricultural experiences. Vermont Ag Literacy Week and Open Farm Week encourage families to learn and explore more about Vermont agriculture. 4-H has had an increase in youth seeking animal experiences and UVM's animal science program

is at capacity. With existing and historical networks in Vermont, increased national resources, and the growing interest in agricultural experiences, there is a pressing need to support and grow these programs.

Bottlenecks & Gaps

- FTS programs have dramatically increased food system education in Vermont, but there are education gaps in certain sectors (e.g., dairy).
- The Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) lacks staff to support existing agricultural education, or to identify and track how agricultural education programs can support Learning Plans.
- Existing agricultural education resources for educators are scattered, outdated, and conflicting. Existing programs have limited capacity to address the host of statewide pre-K-12 agricultural literacy issues and needs. Agricultural education in school cafeterias is often constrained by meal program budgets, infrastructure, and regulations.
- Some school authorities are steering kids away from agricultural careers, due to outdated perceptions of the field or budget implications of sending students to out-of-district CTEs.
- On-farm visits and education are hindered by farmer liability concerns and lack of knowledge on the part of educators about which farms are willing to host students.

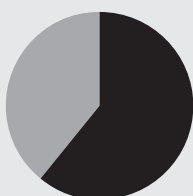
Opportunities

- The COVID-19 pandemic and climate change have focused public attention on food system weaknesses while increasing public interest in local food. This heightened awareness, during large-scale economic recovery efforts, presents unique opportunities for K-12 agricultural literacy.
- Agricultural literacy can be improved by prioritizing K-12 meal programs as important educational tools and supporting them with adequate funding and resources.

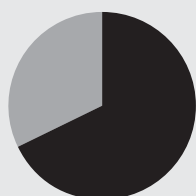
continued on page 4



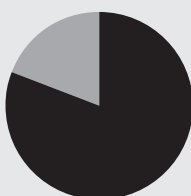
61% of Vermont schools had at least some integration of FTS programming within the curriculum in the 2016/2017 school year.



68% had at least some FTS integration with the community.



81% had a school garden. Schools with elementary grades were more likely to have a garden.



What Counts as a Produce Farm?

By Ollie Cultrara, VT
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Does your dairy farm grow sweet corn or pumpkins? Do you run a maple operation with a seasonal side business selling berries or zucchinis? Even if growing fruits or vegetables is not your farm's primary enterprise, the Vermont Agency of

Agriculture's Produce Program considers you part of the state's produce growing community.

In order to better support Vermont growers, the Produce Program is reaching out to learn how many farms in the state grow produce. If your farm grows or harvests produce for sale, including fruits, vegetables, mushrooms, herbs, or nuts, we'd like to hear from you!

To let us know you sell produce, get in touch with the Produce Program at ollie.cultrara@vermont.gov, (802) 461-5128, or at agriculture.vermont.gov/produceprogram/produce_portal. Our team can help you understand food safety requirements and access resources to grow produce safely on your farm—which can lead to increased efficiency, produce quality, and market access.



Organic Certification Cost Share Program

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets offers funding assistance through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) to organic producers and handlers of agricultural products who have received organic certification through a USDA-accredited certifying agent.

Certified organic producers and handlers who have paid certification fees to become newly certified or re-certified for specific scopes under the National Organic Program (NOP) are eligible for cost-share reimbursement.

Certified organic operations may receive reimbursement of up to 50% of their direct certification costs paid between October 1 and September 30 annually, not to exceed \$500 per certification scope. There are up to four eligible certification scopes (crops, livestock, wild crops, and handling), which must be individually inspected for organic certification to be eligible for reimbursement.

Allowable costs include application fees, inspection fees, USDA organic certification costs, user fees/sale assessments, and postage.

To learn more and apply, please visit agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/organiccostshare

The application deadline is November 1, 2021. Reimbursement is available on a first come, first served basis.

Contact Terry Smith at terry.smith@vermont.gov or (802) 828-5667.

Food System Plan

continued from page 3

- Many related efforts could be leveraged to align strategies and resources for increasing agriculture literacy in the state (e.g., agritourism, the FTS Network).
- Updated resources, relevant tools, and applicable models of agricultural literacy from other U.S. programs could be integrated into Vermont teacher professional development and student programming.
- Schools could expand

ways to award educational credit to agricultural learning, linking to education initiatives (e.g., Proficiency Based Learning). Middle and high schools which offer hands-on agriculture programs could partner with CTEs.

Recommendations

- Increase AOE leadership, representation, and involvement in agricultural education initiatives. Create programmatic staff and/or a liaison to oversee CTE content, stay current on agricultural

sector educational needs, access federal dollars, and serve as point person with agricultural education programs. Improve coordination between AOE, Department of Labor, and Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets to support career exploration opportunities throughout the state that meet students' interest, address workforce needs, and offer statewide access to on-farm experiences.

- Convene statewide relevant partners to identify, and create a plan

to address, the existing gaps in agricultural education in Vermont.

- The Vermont Legislature should fund the Vermont Farm to School Network with \$500,000 of annual base funding for FTS infrastructure grants, technical assistance, and training, to grow FTS in all counties.
- Support efforts by Vermont's CTEs to redesign the state educational funding model so that CTEs have independent funding streams and budgets and are not in competition with sending schools.

- Provide a greater variety of training opportunities by supporting existing (and developing new) programs such as apprenticeships, certificates, stackable credentials, and concurrent degrees, in an affordable and accessible format.
- To reduce farmer liability concerns about hosting on-farm visits, draft tightly crafted legislation around the definition of agritourism in a way that supports a limited liability statute for farms offering agritourism and educational experiences.

Dairy Business Viability and Technical Assistance Grant Opening Soon

by Ollie Cultrara, VT
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) announces the availability of funds through the Dairy Business Viability and Technical Assistance Grant Program. This program will provide grants for technical assistance projects that will benefit dairy farmers, processors, producer associations, and supply chain businesses by enhancing dairy business operations and strengthening markets. Projects funded

through this program will coordinate technical assistance to benefit multiple dairy producers and processors during and beyond the grant period through potential for increased product sales and/or business development.

Eligible applicants are dairy processors, producer associations, distributors, and retailers in New England, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. Technical assistance providers are eligible to apply for projects that serve businesses in the Northeast. Multiple businesses may

apply in partnership, or individual entities may apply for projects to serve a specified group of dairy businesses.

Eligible technical assistance could include business consulting, marketing and branding assistance, enhancing distribution channels, product or byproduct innovation, or market diversification. Assistance may also include delivering education and information through websites, webinars, conferences, training, tours, or field days. Some examples of eligible projects are:

- A technical service provider applies to assist a defined group of dairy farmers with business planning and production adaptation in response to changing market conditions.
- A regional distributor applies in collaboration with two local dairy producers to pay for a service provider to conduct market research and support business planning for expanding into a new metropolitan market.
- A cheesemaker association applies for funding to implement and train its

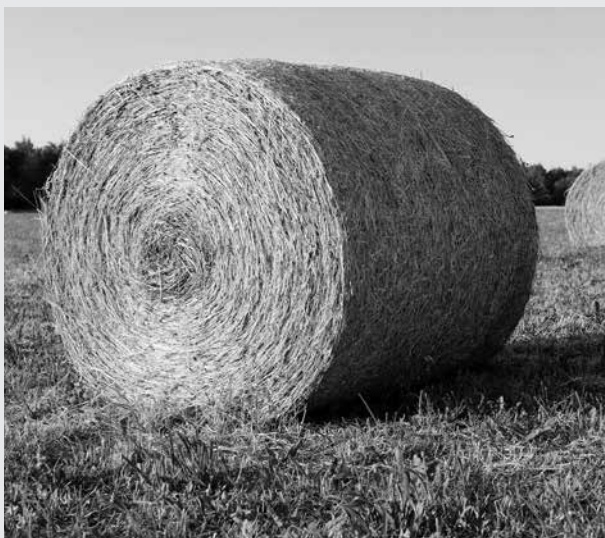
members on a new e-commerce platform that supports direct-to-consumer sales.

Awards will range from \$10,000 to \$100,000 with a 25% cash or in-kind match requirement. The request for applications will be released October 12, 2021, with applications accepted between October 26 and December 7, 2021. For more information, visit agriculture.vermont.gov/dbic/activities/dairy-business-viability-technical-assistance-grant or contact Julia.Scheier@vermont.gov

Technical Assistance Contracts Available for Grazing Transition and Forage Improvement Cohorts

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) seeks service providers across the Northeast to offer technical assistance for dairy farmers to improve their feed management through projects that are grazing and/or forage focused. Projects can focus on homegrown forage, holistic farm forage management, and/or full or partial transition to a grass-based grazing model. Service providers will recruit localized cohorts of at least five dairy farms to participate in on-farm learning opportunities and one-on-one technical assistance. Participating farms must be within New England, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. Funding is available for four

to eight project contracts ranging from \$75,000 - \$150,000. For more information, visit agriculture.vermont.gov/transition-grazing-cohort-ta-contract or contact Laura.Ginsburg@vermont.gov.



Contractor Selected to Assess Interest in Producing Milk for Specialty Cheese Processors

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center (NE-DBIC) selected Karen Karp & Partners of Southold, New York to study the level of interest from dairy farmers located in central and southern Vermont and northern Massachusetts in producing milk specifically for specialty cheese production. The study will include outreach to cheesemakers to identify their criteria for milk suppliers followed by outreach to dairy farms to determine interest and capacity in supplying milk to specialty cheesemakers. The assessment will set the stage for NE-DBIC to help facilitate localized supply-chain relationships within the northeast region's specialty cheese sector. For more information, contact Laura.Ginsburg@vermont.gov



Be Alert: Cyber Criminal Actors are Targeting the Food & Agriculture Sector with Ransomware Attacks

By FBI, Cyber Crime

Summary

Ransomware attacks targeting the Food and Agriculture sector disrupt operations, cause financial loss, and negatively impact the food supply chain. Ransomware may impact businesses across the sector, from small farms to large producers, processors and manufacturers, and markets and restaurants. Food and agriculture businesses victimized by ransomware suffer significant financial

loss resulting from ransom payments, loss of productivity, and remediation costs. Companies may also experience the loss of proprietary information and personally identifiable information (PII) and may suffer reputational damage resulting from a ransomware attack.

Threat Overview

The Food and Agriculture sector is among the critical infrastructure sectors increasingly targeted by cyber attacks. As the sector moves to adopt more smart

technologies and internet of things (IoT) processes the attack surface increases. Larger businesses are targeted based on their perceived ability to pay higher ransom demands, while smaller entities may be seen as soft targets, particularly those in the earlier stages of digitizing their processes, according to a private industry report.

In a ransomware attack, victims' files are encrypted and made unavailable, and the attacker demands a payment for the decryption

tool and key. As of 2019, sensitive data files are commonly exfiltrated prior to encryption, and the attacker demands a payment not to publish the sensitive data on a "name-and-shame" website. This double extortion potentially gives the attacker more leverage to ensure payment, based on the potential damage caused by a significant data breach of sensitive information.

What you can do

Cyber criminal threat actors will continue to

exploit network system vulnerabilities within the food and agriculture sector. This is a short list of steps that can be implemented to mitigate the threat and protect against ransomware attacks:

- Regularly back up data, air gap, and password protect backup copies offline. Ensure copies of critical data are not accessible for modification or deletion from the system where the data resides.

continued on page 7

For Agricultural Events and Resources Visit:

- The VT Agency of Agriculture Events Calendar: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/calendar>
- UVM Extension Events Calendars: https://www.uvm.edu/extension/extension_event_calendars
- Vermont Farm to Plate Events Calendar: <https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/events>
- Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont Events Calendar: <http://nofavt.org/events>
- DigIn Vermont Events Calendar: <https://www.diginvt.com/events/>
- Agricultural Water Quality Regulations: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality/regulations>
- Agency of Ag's Tile Drain Report now available here: <http://agriculture.vermont.gov/tile-drainage>
- VAAFM annual report available here: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/about_us/budgets_reports
- Farm First: Confidential help with personal or work-related issues. More info call: 1-877-493-6216 any-time day or night, or visit: www.farmfirst.org
- Vermont AgrAbility: Free service promoting success in agriculture for people with disabilities and their families. More info call 1-800-639-1522, email: info@vcil.org or visit: www.vcil.org.

For more agricultural events visit our *Funding Opportunities & Resources for Businesses* webpage at: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/producer_partner_resources/funding_opportunities

Online Educational Credit Opportunity Available Now!

By Mary Montour, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

If you are a Custom Manure Applicator, Certified Small Farm Operation (CSFO), Medium Farm Operation (MFO), or Large Farm Operation (LFO), you are required to earn educational credits per the Required Agricultural Practices (RAPs). Custom Manure Applicators need to earn 8 educational credits every 5 years to maintain certification. CSFOs, MFOs, and LFOs are required to earn 4 educational credits every 5 years. Credits can be earned through AAFM approved farm field days, online webinars, trainings, and educational events. Most field days and educational events eligible for credits are hosted through agricultural partners

such as UVM Extension, Conservation Districts, and farmer groups, and are automatically logged through event sign-in sheets and registrations. If you attend events this fall, be sure to sign your name on the sign-in sheet or registration as a Custom Manure Applicator or farmer to get your credits!

Available now online for educational credits:

Nutrient Flows: pH, CEC, and Phosphorus (1 credit)

In this video, an overview of the essential nutrients plants require and some soil processes that govern nutrient availability is given. This video focuses on pH, the cation exchange capacity (CEC), and phosphorus. Viewers are introduced to the phosphorus cycle and the Phosphorus Index (P-Index).

Overview of Nutrient Management and Required Agricultural Practices (1 credit)

This video reviews the parts, purpose, and benefits of nutrient management plans. Examples of Required Agriculture Practices buffer requirements are illustrated and factors that contribute to erosion are presented.

The webinars above, as well as other online credit opportunities, can be found on the Agency's Educational Credit webpage: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/water-quality-educational-credits>

If you have any questions about educational credits, are looking for events to attend, or are interested in how many credits you need as a Custom Manure Applicator or farmer, please contact the Agency at 802-828-2431.

Produce Safety Bite: Packing and Storing

On-farm food safety tips for fruit & vegetable growers

By Ollie Cultrara, VT
Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Produce safety means protecting fruits and vegetables from becoming contaminated with harmful pathogens. Managing packing and storage areas properly helps maintain the safety and quality of your product.

Keep it tidy

Routinely clean, and when necessary, sanitize direct food contact surfaces. Clear out organic matter and standing water on floors. To prevent conditions where pathogens can thrive, remove debris from drains, and consider sanitizing drains regularly. Use low pressure when spraying down equipment or surfaces to avoid spreading potential pathogens through back-splash and aerosols.

Pests

Deter rodents, birds, and insects by removing culls and garbage, mowing around buildings, keeping doors closed, and repairing cracks and holes. Hardware cloth can keep rodents from chewing through walls, while netting or spikes can prevent birds from roosting. If using baited traps, consider placing traps along the outside of buildings to avoid attracting pests indoors. Monitor traps regularly and take additional precautions if scouting indicates a potential

infestation. Keep pallets and containers at least one foot away from walls to discourage pest activity and for easier scouting.

Containers & Packaging

Store containers and food packaging off the ground in a clean, dry, and protected area. If you re-use containers that are difficult to clean, like wax boxes, use clean single-use food grade liners and throw out containers that are visibly worn or damaged. Keep harvest containers off the ground as much as possible to avoid bringing extra soil into the packing area.

Coolers

Water can easily spread pathogens. Protect produce from standing water as well as drip from surface condensation and overhead pipes or fixtures. Cooler floors, walls, and ceilings should be made from easily cleanable materials and should be cleaned and when necessary, sanitized, on a routine basis. The UVM Extension Produce Safety Team (producesafety@uvm.edu) can help you optimize coolers to maintain product quality while minimizing food safety risks.

Next steps

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule (PSR) sets a standard for preventing contamination during packing and holding of produce. Whether or



not your farm is subject to the PSR requirements, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture's Produce Program can help you take

the next step in developing a culture of food safety on your farm. Contact the Vermont Produce Program at AGR.FSMA@vermont.gov.

agriculture.vermont.gov/produceprogram, (802) 461-5128. For more information, visit

Ransomware Attacks

continued from page 6

- Install updates/patch operating systems, software, and firmware as soon as they are released.
- Use multifactor authentication with strong pass phrases where possible.
- Use strong passwords and regularly change passwords to network systems and accounts, implementing the shortest acceptable timeframe for password changes. Avoid

reusing passwords for multiple accounts.

- Require administrator credentials to install software.
- Install and regularly update anti-virus and anti-malware software on all hosts.
- Only use secure networks and avoid using public Wi-Fi networks. Consider installing and using a VPN.
- Consider adding an email banner to messages coming from outside your organizations.

- Disable hyperlinks in received emails.

For additional resources related to the prevention and mitigation of ransomware, go to <https://www.stopransomware.gov> as well as the CISA-Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) Joint Ransomware Guide. [Stopransomware.gov](https://www.stopransomware.gov) is the U.S. Government's new, official one-stop location for resources to tackle ransomware more effectively.

Invasive 'Spotted Lanternfly' Found In Out-of-State Shipment to Rutland

By Scott Waterman, VT
Agency of Agriculture,
Food & Markets

On Thursday, August 19, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets was alerted that a live 'Spotted Lanternfly' was captured on a shipment delivered in Rutland. Recognizing the insects as unusual, at the time of delivery the insects were either killed or captured, and one live sample was delivered to officials for identification. At this time, no other evidence of the insects has been discovered by responding Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR) officials, or Agency staff.

The follow-up to this discovery includes treatment of the shipment and placement of traps in the area where the truck was unloaded and checking them every two weeks. Agency staff with assistance from FPR have conducted a survey of ¼ mile radius from ground zero, concentrating on locating and searching host trees such as walnuts, willow, and tree of heaven.

Please note that the location and immediate eradication of this pest represent a regulatory incident, and is considered resolved. "While this is a concerning discovery and we take this development very seriously, we also have no knowledge that this indicates a larger problem in Vermont at this



Adult spotted lanternflies are about one-inch long. Adults have grey wings with black spots. When the spotted lanternfly's wings are spread, it exposes a bright red underwing. Keeping an eye out for this insect could help prevent its

time," said Cary Giguere, Director of Plant Health and Agriculture Resource Management at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets. "We will take all the steps necessary to determine how large a problem this might be, but what's more important is that people keep their eyes open for this invasive and destructive insect and let us know immediately if you find any...even as few as one."

This insect is attracted to the Tree of Heaven. If this is a tree in your landscape, please be vigilant and check for this insect. If you see this pest, please notify the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation or www.vtinvasives.org. The state response to an invasive insect is a cooperative effort between the public and state officials, which this incident has highlighted.

Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Michael Snyder said, "A suspected spotted lanternfly was



brought to the Forestry Building at the Rutland State Fair on August 17 for identification. The Forestry Building is a cooperative effort put forth by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, US Forest Service/Green Mountain National Forest, Audubon Vermont, consulting foresters and forest product companies. The insect was captured by a Vermonter who was concerned it may be an invasive pest and was positively identified as spotted lanternfly on Aug. 18th. We count on all Vermonters to be our eyes and ears for the detection of exotic invasive species. All the outreach and education has paid off and we thank Vermonters for remaining vigilant."

Originally from China, the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) is a colorful, eye-catching invasive insect that was first detected in Pennsylvania

in 2014. Despite efforts to contain SLF within PA, it has been established in eight other states including CT, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, WV and OH. Agricultural fruit crops such as grape, apple, cherry and peach are all susceptible to damage caused by spotted lanternfly, as well as economically valuable hardwood trees including maple, oak and walnut species. The invasive 'tree of heaven' is the preferred host plant of the pest when it is present but unfortunately, SLF also feeds on over 70 different plant species.

damaging impacts:

- Learn how to identify spotted lanternfly in its various life stages and how to distinguish its preferred host, tree-of-heaven or Ailanthus, from beneficial native species such as sumacs and black walnut.
- If you visit a known Spotted Lanternfly infested area, inspect your vehicle carefully to make sure you aren't driving an egg mass back to Vermont with you.
- If you think you've found either spotted lanternfly or tree-of-heaven report it to www.vtinvasives.org so we can follow up.

Subscribe to Field Notes!

A quarterly newsletter from the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets' Food Safety and Consumer Protection Division

If you eat food or purchase commodities at retail in Vermont, you will benefit from quarterly updates from the Agency's Food Safety and Consumer Protection Division, comprising the Dairy, Animal Health, Meat Inspection, Weights and Measures, and Agricultural Products Sections. Get a glimpse into how this specialized team ensures safe food and fair markets for all Vermonters! To subscribe, visit here: <https://vermont.us7.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7858fdf10d2a4e7ed78a12245&id=6612b3a6ff>



Capital Equipment Assistance Program Open for Applications

By Nina Gage, VT Agency of
Agriculture, Food and Markets

The Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets is pleased to announce that funding is available through the Capital Equipment Assistance Program (CEAP). Financial assistance is available for new or used innovative equipment that will aid in the reduction of surface runoff of agricultural wastes to state waters, improve water quality of state waters, reduce odors from manure application, separate phosphorus from manure, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, or reduce costs to farmers. Eligible applicants include custom applicators, non-profit organizations, and individual farms or groups of farms required to comply with the Required Agricultural Practices.

CEAP is a reimbursement style grant program, which means applicants, once selected for funding, will have to purchase 100% of the equipment and will be reimbursed by the State up to 90% of the actual cost, or up to the corresponding funding cap by category. Please note that shipping/freight fees are not reimbursable costs. CEAP applications are due by November 1, 2021. Application requirements include completion of the appropriate CEAP application as well as a one-page applicant questionnaire, and quotes for the requested equipment. Letter/s of

Eligible Equipment Types and Funding Rates		
Equipment Type	Examples of Eligible Equipment	Funding Rates
Precision Agricultural Equipment <i>(Educational training on equipment or technology use required if awarded)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GPS, Flow Meter & Display UnitManure or Harvest Constituent Sensor	90% cost-share up to \$25,000 per applicant
Conservation Tillage Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No-Till Corn PlanterRidge-Till	90% cost-share up to \$10,000 per applicant, OR (90% cost-share up to \$20,000 only if applying for equipment AND precision agriculture component to be used in conjunction with equipment)
Cover Crop Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No-Till Grain DrillRoller Crimper	90% cost-share up to \$40,000 per applicant, OR (90% cost-share up to \$50,000 only if applying for equipment AND precision agriculture component to be used in conjunction with equipment)
Waste Management Equipment*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Injectors*Irrigation*Dragline system*	90% cost-share up to \$50,000 per applicant, OR (90% cost-share up to \$60,000 only if applying for equipment AND precision agriculture component to be used in conjunction with equipment)
Silage Management Equipment**	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Balers/Wrappers**	90% cost-share up to \$50,000 per applicant
Other Innovative Conservation Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Other Equipment	90% cost-share up to \$50,000 per applicant <i>Award amount may vary depending on the project type, cost and expected results.</i>
<p>* Waste management equipment only eligible for funding if precision manure record keeping system [GPS, Flow Meter and Display Unit] are included in application, or operational unit exists on farm to be used in conjunction with proposed equipment.</p> <p>** Feed management equipment eligible only as an alternative to leachate management improvement as least cost alternative, and will require VAAFM Engineer site visit to ensure eligibility</p>		

support are optional to submit and should add pertinent and helpful information about your application if submitted. Please refrain from including letters of support which may clearly be biased in their support of your application. You can review program details on our website including application ranking criteria and more. We highly encourage applicants to apply online to ensure a timely receipt of applications. This method of submission also provides applicants with confirmation that their application has been received. Notification of grant awards will occur by February 1, 2022 and equipment purchase will be

required after award notice and before June 1, 2022.
For the CEAP application,

program details and more information visit agriculture.vermont.gov/ceap, call Nina

Gage at (802) 622-4098, or email AGR.WaterQuality@Vermont.gov



No Till Corn Planter enhanced with precision planting and fertilizing technology to improve nutrient management at DeGraff Dairy in Richmond, VT.

Photo provided by DeGraff Dairy

VERMONT VEGETABLE AND BERRY NEWS



Compiled by Vern Grubinger,
University of Vermont
Extension
(802) 257-7967 ext. 303, or
vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu
www.vvbga.org

Reports From The Field

(Guildhall) We're digging new potatoes from yellows, chippers, reds, blues and getting chefs from all of them. Size is so good, so early this year that for the first time in 3 years we could supply baked potatoes for our town's annual library fundraiser, a point of some pride. Potato foliage is beginning to show its age, maybe some early blight but is generally in good shape.

Pumpkins went in two weeks earlier than last year and will be two weeks later. Decent fruit size, but almost nothing is blushing orange yet. Sunshine kabocha and Delicata will make squash but everything else is very on the fence.

(Burlington) Starting

to be able to see the late season storage crops outcomes. Onion crop is off the charts. Was it extra irrigation, thrips control, and better June growth? A decrease from 4 rows to 3? Improved weed control? Regardless, yields are way over normal, despite a significant downy mildew outbreak in later July. Winter squash looking better than 2020, when July pollination suffered in the blistering heat. Potatoes also off to a good start. I'm hoping for another drier autumn because I love how it reduces foliar diseases in brassicas and roots.

Enjoyed our pollinator workshop with new UVM Extension Pollinator Specialist Laura Johnson, picked up useful info. Turns out many of the ground nesting bees have short life cycles of 2 to 4 weeks and tunnel below the plow layer for their solitary nests. This means bare soil in the middle of our vegetables for a modest amount of time can serve as decent habitat, if other things are equal, which makes our bare wheel tracks between plastic seem like a good idea in our cucurbits.

(Westminster West) Full-on harvest season and the weather is finally cooperating as well! Winter squash yields seem below normal, not surprised with

so many cloudy days and rains. Pumpkins are not as grand as last year although pie pumpkins look excellent. Tomato crop winding down, lost several fruit sets back when it was very hot so a huge gap, picked out for the first time in years.

Potatoes love all the rain; yields look great, good size and quality. Two new varieties, Baltic Rose and Peter Wilcox have huge yields and excellent color. CPB had little presence here. I did see them, sprayed only once and the timing must have been perfect. Great year for the allium family, huge yields and top quality including the Leeks, which have no purple blotch this year and no idea why! Some years you can do all the right things and still have problems and then the rare year when you do nothing and you get perfect crops, life is a mystery.

(Rochester) We got four good weeks of blueberry picking in this season but lost the last of the crop mid-August. Yield was about two-thirds of last year's, although last year was particularly good. The wet conditions caused the fruit to swell up early and we started to see drops in just the second week of harvest. SWD likes it wet and was much harder for us to control, and pickers don't come out when it's raining. But the fall raspberry crop looks promising, and we are hoping for a not-too-early killing frost this fall.

(S. Royalton) This has been my toughest year ever, zukes died in 3 days, melons/cukes doing terribly, greens burning up. At least the corn, tomatoes, and beans are doing well.

(Westminster) We've been harvesting some of our root crops – carrots, beets, and watermelon radishes – and they look nice. That's good because the drenching we got in July brought in a lot of disease. Heavy flooding on July 30 damaged crops in some low-lying fields (although Henri, fortunately, was a bust, disaster-wise). Saturated, anaerobic soils are breeding grounds for fungus spores. The broccoli has been a disaster, and our lacinata and red kale were hit hard. Lettuce fared poorly, too. But new plantings of kale are looking better now that the weather has evened out, and we're hoping for a good root-crop season.

We'll start picking winter squash soon, although wet weather did not help that either. In addition to disease, rain leached nutrients out of the soil and that will affect yields. Thin-skinned specialty squashes like kabocha will be scarce, although our butternut and acorn should do well.

Like many other farmers, our local work force shrinks this time of year, with students going back to school, so we're scrambling to harvest for orders and keep our fall crops weeded. We'll start up our new wash/pack line soon, which will make packing out root crops much more efficient and help us do a better job of meeting food safety standards.

(Elmore) Hot and dry. Plum and pear trees wilting, ripening at least three weeks early. Our water system timers can't take it and conk out every few weeks, we keep buying new ones. We inspect all potted trees

weekly for signs of drying out, usually due to failed timers.

Heavy crops of blackberries, apples with nearly no insect damage, pears and plums bending their branches. Many weeds I have never seen before taking over parts of the farm, some of these seem to be attracting pollinators, so I will probably leave them. Lots of monarchs and bees on wild purple asters. We mow less and leave larger areas unmowed for birds and bees. NRCS visited today and said we are doing a great job on habitat creation.

(Westfield) We are still very dry. We finally got one inch of rain, which gives us some relief. We were lucky to be able to do some irrigation over the summer to keep the plants growing and amazingly, we have a good crops. All vegetables did well, which is hard to understand when the soil is like wood ash. Sales have been strong. Tomatoes grafted on Shin cheong were a no show.

Last year I tried a tomato leaf tea against the swede midge; I fill a 5-gallon bucket full of tomato leaves and add water and let it stand for two weeks, then filter and spray weekly (almost) on broccoli, cauliflowers, and cabbage, non-diluted. I lost only 30% of my broccoli and there is barely any damage on the other crops. Previously, I used to lose all my broccoli. Two years in I don't know if it is a coincidence, or if it works, but I do harvest nice broccoli now. Will see if it keeps working every year. Warning: it smells awful!

continued on page 12



BUSINESS PLANNING
BUSINESS VALUATION
TRANSFERS & SUCCESSIONS
TAX PLANNING & PREPARATION

LAND & FARM
REAL ESTATE SERVICES

B BASSETTE
Real Estate Group
802-457-2244 (office)



KEVIN CHANNELL Kevin@farmandforestservices.com
802-249-7384 www.farmandforestservices.com

CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad in *Agriview* sign up to be a paid subscriber — visit our website: <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/administration/vaafm-news/agriview/advertising-agriview>

Email: Agri.agriview@vermont.gov, phone: 802-828-1619. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of each month for next month's issue. Example: January 1st deadline for February issue.

Cattle

Four Registered Jersey Heifers: Well grown, bred to grade Jersey bull. Due to calve Oct, 11, 17, 20 and Nov 2. Heifers will be 26, 25, and 2 at 24 mos of age when calving. \$1150.00 ea. Bradford VT 802.222.5123 (7)

30 – 40 Jersey Cows. High components, low cell count, grass milk certified, OAD. Contact Joe and Emily in Charlotte, VT. (802) 425-4528 or doneganfamilyfarm@gmail.com (7)

Now boarding heifers and beef cattle! If labor's hard to find or you're short on feed, let us board your animals. 300 lbs and up with minimum group size of 50. Fed haylage or mix of haylage and corn silage, your choice. Excellent facilities in a free stall barn with slatted floors, comfort stalls and fans. Rate is \$1.50-2.00 per day per head. References available upon request. 802-533-2984. (9)

Equipment

Pequea Woodsman portable wood saw PTO driven hydraulic pump on 3 point hitch with 30 inch saw blade. \$1500. OBO. PTO driven Four foot hydraulic wood splitter on three point hitch. \$2000. Will negotiate 802-893-2263 (7)

2 Forage wagons-Badger and Gehl 980 each with very good roof. 2 Gehl Hi-Throw Blowers, 1 John Deere 7000 four row corn planter for seeding only. 1 cultivator 4 row. 1 Gehl 860 two row corn chopper with two heads-new gathering chains for 1 head, still in box. 2

silos unloaders 16' Hanson Surface drive, Volumatic III ring drive. All equipment was serviced and ready to use last fall. Farm has moved away from corn due to weather issues. Please call Joe 802-595-5267 (7)

Ford L 8000 tandem dump truck 19ft rack. Hyd dump pump with tail gate, electric automatic tarp good tires and body. New batteries 213,000 miles \$17,500. 802-265-4589 (7)

Boumatic pipeline 80 stalls, 320 ft, 2 inch stainless steel, control box and receiver jar, \$1500.00 or best offer. Please call (802) 868-2285 leave message. (9)

Doda separator for sale: with new screens, excellent shape, used very little, \$20,000 OBRO. Bulk milk tanks for sale: 4000 gallon Boumatic Dari Kool, excellent condition, \$24,000 OBRO; 1500 gallon DEC, also excellent condition \$8000. Double 10 Boumatic parlor for sale: reel, front exit with ATO and meters; auto ID and sort gate; excellent shape-\$30,000 OBRO. Delaval VMS robots-with ID, computer, 2 air compressors, vacuum pump, 4 sort gates; will need new rubber parts; \$100,000 for all 4 or \$30,000 each. Call 802-533-2984 (9)

WIC 52 feed cart. Used only 11 months. Has TMR beaters and is in excellent condition. \$5200.00 For pics and info call 802-535-4756 or email labmanvt@gmail.com (9)

2001 F350, low miles, setup for Fisher plow, electric brake, runs good. \$3000. Call 948-2774 (9)

General

Red Raspberry plants high producing – produce twice a year. Bare root \$2.00. Potted \$8.00. 802-323-8787 (7)

Hay, Feed & Forage

1000 tons corn silage, processed in Colchester. 50 @ ton 802-272-3478 or 802-223-1370 or email sethgardner@hotmail.com

Excellent quality first cut wrapped round bales; baleage. Shelburne VT Call Andy 802-598-6060. Analysis available upon request.

Organic haylage 12% protein \$45 per ton, 15% protein \$55 per ton. 802-537-2435

4x4 round balage mixed grains cut late June. \$30 802-325-3707

1st cut 4x5 round bales. Don Pettis, 802-265-4566.

Certified Organic First Cut Wrapped Round Bales for sale. Clover, Timothy and mixed grasses. Test samples and delivery available. Call Matt 802-558-3879.

Vetch & rye seeds for sale, mixed in 50 lb. bags, \$1/lb. certified by Vermont Organic Farmers. Thornhill Farm, 198 Taylor Road, Greensboro Bend, VT 05842, todd@thornhillfarmvermont.com, 802-441-3176

2021 First cut \$4. At barn in Ryegate. Steve 802-584-4450

Hay for sale: 1st cut organic round bales. Randolph Center. Call John at 522-8798

Certified organic first cut wrapped round bales for sale – cut by mid June, good sized and well made. Asking \$50/each with 200 bales available. Beidler Family Farm, Randolph Center Contact: 802-728-5601 or brentbeidler@gmail.com.

ADDISON COUNTY

1st cut 4x5 round bales never wet. Good horse & cow hay. 802-948-2627 or 802-558-0166



Certified organic, small square bales always stacked and stored under cover, 35-40lbs/ bale. \$4/bale, discounts available for large quantities. 802-989-0781 for inquiries.

Hay for Sale in Addison, VT. Large square bales and small squares. \$50-60 for large, \$3.50-4.50 for small. Delivery available. Call Jack 802-989-8968

Hay for sale. \$3.25 bale. 802-377-5455

1st cut 5ft diameter round bales. \$30-\$35, Orwell 802-948-2211

Straw for sale - \$7/bale for 50 or more. \$8/bale for less than 50, \$6/bale for all in the barn, approx. 350. from our winter rye harvest in August. certified organic. Thornhill Farm, Greensboro Bend, 05842, todd@thornhillfarmvermont.com, 802-441-3176

Hay for sale, cows are sold. 750 lb 4x5 round bales stored inside or tube-wrapped.

Bedding/Mulch \$35 Heifer/ Beef \$40 Dairy \$55 I will load your truck. In Whiting Call 802-623-6584

BENNINGTON COUNTY

Corn Silage 1000 ton plus. Haylage 500 ton plus. Round bales 4x4. Square bales small. 802-394-2976

CALEDONIA COUNTY

Square baled hay- Top quality, VOF certified organic, generous sized. 1st cut \$4.50/bale, 2nd cut \$5.50/

bale at the barn in Barnet. 802-592-3088

CHITTENDEN COUNTY

Round bales for horses. Clean first cut timothy mixed grass, quality net wrapped 4' X 5' bales. Never wet. \$45 each. 802-879-0391 Westford.

15 large 5x5 round bales mixed grass w/some timothy + clover 800+lbs \$50 ea. call 899-4126

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Good quality hay 1c & 2c from western US & Canada. Alfalfa orchard & orchard sweet grass 18 to 20% plus protein large bales & organic by trailer loads. Large or small square bales of straw whole or processed at farm we load on direct delivery by trailer load. Mountain View Dairy Farm 802-849-6266 (6)

LAMOILLE COUNTY

Organic baled straw. \$5.50/ bale. Organic First Cut Hay. \$5.00/bale. Certified Organic. Valley Dream Farm, Cambridge. 802-644-6598. valleydreamfarm@gmail.com.

ORLEANS COUNTY

Pure alfalfa for sale and also 1st, 2nd and 3rd cut big/ small squares, round bales, wrapped or unwrapped, straw and switch grass. Call Richard at 802-323-3275.

Organic Certified Silage for Sale: We will deliver from our farm or you can come and pick up. Call for prices and delivery charge. 1-802-744-2444 or 802-274-4934 or 802-744-6553.

CLASSIFIEDS

RUTLAND COUNTY

Good quality 1st and 2nd round bales available, wrapped and dried. Please call 802-446-2435.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

200-4x4 round bales 1st & 2nd cut \$5 each. 802-229-9871

WINDHAM COUNTY

1st cut hay. Good horse hay. \$4.50 bale 802-254-5069

WINDSOR COUNTY

Hay for sale: 400 square bales, Reading, Windsor County Vt. \$3.50 per bale at the barn. Call 802-484-7240

4x5 dry round bales \$45.00
Can deliver. 802-457-1376

Rolling Meadows Farm: square bales in the field or barn \$4.00. Delivery can be arranged at \$5.50. Very nice hay from fertilized fields in the South Woodstock and Reading area. Call 802-484-5540 or goodfarmvt@gmail.com. Ask for David.

1st cut dry round bales for sale. Never been rained on, stored under cover. \$50. First cut haylage bales for sale. \$45. Rte. 5, Weathersfield Bow. 802-546-4340.

Dry Round Horse Hay, \$50/ bale. 200 bales left.
Call 802-356-5030.

Wanted

Pair of headlocks for cows, round bale feeder, and forks for 7109 loader pin bucket. Also coral panels, three p/h rake and 5 or 6' disc mower. Hinsdale 603-336-0017.
Cattle: two Jersey-crosses heifers breeding age \$1,000 or b/o, 3 hereford heifers \$500 & up and beef cow \$1,250 or b/o. Hinsdale 603-336-0017. (7)

Hello! I am moving to Vermont from the UK in September and am looking for housing for myself and my 3-year-old daughter. I will be working as a researcher for UVM Extension on a regenerative agriculture project. We would like to be rural but <40 mins drive from Burlington. We enjoy gardening, foraging, walking, climbing, horse-riding, cooking and generally being outdoors! Budget is \$1500 per month. Please email me on bryony.sands@bristol.ac.uk if you know of anything suitable! (9)

Vegetable & Berry News

continued from page 10

(Newbury) Tons of monarchs. All over the Joe Pyeweed and sedums in our gardens. Harvesting Carola and Nataschas. Very good size and yield. Same with onions.

Updates From The UVM Plant Diagnostic Clinic

Ann Hazelrigg, UVM Extension plant pathologist

Fungal leaf spot diseases continue to spread with each rain event. The northern part of the state has been dry and hence lower incidence of disease, the middle part has had weekly rains and is seeing higher amounts of foliage disease and the south part of the state has been deluged!

Tomato leafspots on the rise (early blight and Septoria) on field tomatoes. Late blight still has only been found on potatoes in Ontario and Maine. Getting lots of reports of powdery mildew, botrytis, and leaf molds in tomato high tunnels. Ghost spot showing up on high tunnel fruit that high loads of Botrytis inoculum. Some growers mentioning a break in production because of the early high temps of over 85°F. Tomato fruit issues are showing up due to suspected K deficiency, high temps, and other abiotic ripening issues. <http://extension.msstate.edu/content/diseases-and-abiotic-problems-greenhouse-tomatoes>

Watch for **Phytophthora fruit rot** if your pumpkins or squash are maturing and your soils have been saturated for 24 hours. Till under sections of the field if you see the yeasty spores on the fruit to eliminate further

airborne spread of inoculum. Avoid moving dirty equipment from an infected field to a clean one. <https://ag.umass.edu/vegetable/factsheets/phytophthora-blight>

Downy mildew seen on brassica (kale) seedlings. DMs are very host specific and like cool, cloudy wet conditions which become more prevalent in the fall so you may see the disease of several veg families. Cucurbit downy mildew reported throughout the region on cukes and cantaloupes although I have had no samples in the PDC.

Stemphylium leaf blight noted in onions in addition to bacterial diseases causing rot on inner scales of bulbs.

Send pics or questions to ann.hazelrigg@uvm.edu or samples to me at home 206 Walker Hill Rd, Williston, 05495 or to Jeffords Hall, UVM, Burlington, 05405. If you send to Jeffords, just email me to give me a heads-up as I am not in the lab every day.

Retail Sales News And Information From Farm To Plate

Annie H. Harlow, VT Farm & Food Ambassador

Small Bites is a weekly e-news that supports the full spectrum of VT food businesses selling at and to retail stores. The aim is to increase sales from our food producers across all categories. We do this through highlighting local, national, and international variables. With a retail and distribution emphasis, Small Bites is useful for VVBGA members who sell direct to stores or have farm stands. Find out more by exploring the archive of past issues; click on "sign up" to get the newsletter: [https://](https://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/get-connected/small-bites-newsletter-archive)

www.vtfarmtoplate.com/get-connected/small-bites-newsletter-archive

Questions or you want to be featured? Email small-bites802@gmail.com

Soil Health Updates

Becky Maden, UVM Extension vegetable nutrient management specialist

The VVBGA Soil Health web platform can help you organize and store your soil test and cover cropping records and help your farm comply with Vermont's Required Agricultural Practices. Visit <https://vvbga.org/> and go to Soil Health. Becky Maden is available to help upload your data.

Fall is an ideal time for soil sampling so you can head into next spring with a plan for amendments, cover crops, etc. Vegetable and annual berry production fields should be sampled at least every 3 years to guide best management practices for pH, nutrients, and organic matter. Samples can be sent to the UVM Agricultural and Environmental Testing Lab and cost \$15 each.

Cover crops play a vital role in reducing winter and spring erosion, "mopping" up excess nutrients, and suppressing weeds. Oats can be sown until September 15 and will winter kill, leaving ground easy to plant next spring. Towards the end of September, winter rye, wheat, or triticale are great options and will overwinter, gaining vigorous biomass next spring. For fields that will be planted to later summer crops next season, hairy vetch can be mixed with the grain to provide abundant nitrogen for summer crops (~80 lbs. rye, wheat, or triticale).

continued on page 14

Agency Contact Numbers

To help you find the right number for your question, please consult the list below. You are always welcome to call our main line 802-828-2430. We will do our best to route you to person most able to answer your question quickly and accurately.

Program Phone Numbers

Act 250	828-2431
Animal Health	828-2421
Business Development	828-1619
Dairy	828-2433
Enforcement: Water Quality or Pesticide. . .	828-2431
Feed, Seed, Fertilizer & Lime.	828-5050
Licensing & Registration	828-2436
Meat Inspection	828-2426
Produce Program	461-5128
Vermont Agriculture & Environmental Lab. .	585-6073
Water Quality BMP.	828-3474
Water Quality Grants	622-4098
Water Quality Reports.	272-0323
Weights & Measures	828-2433
Working Lands.	622-4477

WORKING LANDS ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE PROJECT FEATURE

Stony Pond Farm

by Anne Massie, VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets

Stony Pond Farm is located on close to 400 rolling acres in picturesque Fairfield, Vermont. First generation farmers Melanie and Tyler Webb have stewarded the land for almost 20 years as an organic dairy and grass-fed beef operation. Stony Pond sees their role as land stewards; sequestering carbon through their regenerative practices, supporting environmental sustainability, feeding the soil, and providing pollinator habitats. They first and foremost are committed to integrative farming practices that support the entire ecosystem. Tyler came to farming from a career in conservation with a passion and desire for hands on application of regenerative land stewardship, and to inspire through example both fellow farmers and consumers to embrace the mantra that when it comes to agriculturally related resource concerns... it is not the cow it's the how.

The farm received a \$65,000 Supply Chain Impact business investment grant from the Working

Lands Enterprise Initiative (WLEI) in 2020. Applicants for the Supply Chain Impact projects need to demonstrate how the market or product the applicant is developing or expanding will positively impact multiple businesses within its own supply chain. This investment supported the completion and purchasing of commercial equipment for their on-farm creamery to enhance the viability of their dairy enterprise by significantly increasing production and distribution capabilities.

Stony Pond Farm manages a spring seasonal herd. Breeding takes place in June and cows calve from Mid-March through the end of April. Cows are provided their annual break between lactations between mid-January and mid-March. This system matches a cow's peak production along with her peak nutritional requirements during Vermont's Peak grass growth and quality. According to Stony Pond: "This system works wonderfully with natural cycles, but unfortunately not so well with consumer habits. As cows around the country hit grass in the spring, many milk



Melanie Webb

buyers experience a surge in production termed the spring flush that coincides with a dip in demand. Buyers often apply a milk price deduction to offset the expense of handling this excess production." Stony Pond would see a \$2 per hundred weight decrease for the three months that they produce a majority of their milk. Ramping up cheese production during this time

allows Tyler and Melanie to ease the pressure off their co-op and capture high quality spring grass milk and preserve it as cheese eliminating the loss from the pay decrease as well as adding value that is returned when the cheese is sold a few months later. A co-op is "A dairy cooperative business that is owned, operated, and controlled by the dairy farmers who benefit from its

services. Members finance the cooperative and share in profits it earns in proportion to the volume of milk they market through the cooperative."¹

The grant funds from WLEI were game changing for Stony Pond as they are now able to produce farm fresh cheeses on a larger scale. They built a climate-controlled cheese cave, where they age a variety of raw and pasteurized milk cheeses. Their operation is unique because the cheese is organic, single sourced, and aged on site. In addition, Melanie is making the hand-crafted cheese right as Tyler is milking the cows which produces an incredibly fresh product, preserving the natural enzymes of the milk.

Stony Pond's values extend beyond proper care for the land and animals to supporting the broader farming community. Currently, they host Hunger Moon Farm which is pastured goat, poultry, and egg operation. They foster the next generation of farmers through their beginning farmer training program. Stony Pond supports beginning farmers by giving them access to land, training, community and infrastructure. Stony Pond stated that the scaling up of their creamery would not have been possible without the investment from the Working Lands Enterprise Initiative.

Vermont Farm Bureau is a grassroots not-for-profit membership organization dedicated to supporting Vermont farm families, agriculture and forestry.

We advocate for public policies that strengthen and grow our agricultural economy and conserve our natural resources.

www.vtfb.org



¹ <https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/cir1-16.pdf>

Vegetable & Berry News

continued from page 12

cale + 20 lbs. vetch per acre). Do whatever you can to get the soil covered up before winter—your crops and soil will thank you next year! For support with soil sampling or soil health planning, contact rebecca.maden@uvm.edu or 802-773-3349 x277

Test Your Seed Garlic Seed For Bloat Nematode

Before you sell seed to other growers (or plant it), it's advisable to send a sample to a diagnostic lab to screen for nematode infestation, to prevent GBN from spreading in the region. Do not delay, as test results may take a week or more to receive. A couple of affordable options for testing are the Univ. of Arkansas (\$30) and Univ. of Maine (\$50). The former tests samples for several species of nematodes, the latter tests only for GBN but also looks for Botrytis and White Rot infections. Send at least 5 bulbs per sample. Univ. Arkansas requires their APHIS permit be printed and included in the shipment. Ask Vern for a copy.

New Resources From UVM Ext Ag Engineering Team

Chris Callahan and Andy Chamberlin

We've been busy researching topics, collecting info, and pulling together new grower-focused educational resources in web, print, and video format.

- **New on the VVBGA YouTube Channel:**
The Details on Growing Mustard for Weed Control with Charlie Gray of 4 Corners Farm <https://youtu.be/2z7SR3FRaww>
- **Cleaning Tools** – Andy has swept lot of bits and pieces into a dustpan of a resources focused on cleaning tools that work well for produce farms. Head to <http://go.uvm.edu/cleaningtools> to see the blog post, download a PDF, or watch the video.
- **Concrete Repair** – Chris has chipped away at best practices for repairing cracks and pits in concrete floors and cemented them all together in a set of resources to help you keep rolling along smoothly in the packshed and cooler. Visit <http://go.uvm.edu/concretereprair> for the blog post, PDF download, and video.
- **Bins** – Our bins resource is getting an update including some new bins that we have recently received samples of. Video and PDF versions of this resource will be uploaded shortly. Check out the updated versions at <http://go.uvm.edu/show/1uQp71QmIBZpUcGkwTArXh>

Seeking Winter Squash:

We'll be doing a winter squash curing and storage trial this fall and are looking for four bushels each of three varieties and will pay retail for them. Email chris.callahan@uvm.edu, or call/text 860-380-0448.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

The Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets is pleased to be able to help you identify upcoming grant opportunities. Please go to <https://agriculture.vermont.gov/grants/calendar> for more information.

Programs Open Year-Round

Farmstead Best Management Practices (BMP) Program

Technical and financial assistance for engineered conservation practices on Vermont farms.

Jenn LaValley

Jenn.LaValley@vermont.gov
(802) 828-2431

Pasture And Surface Water Fencing (PSWF) Program

Technical and financial assistance for pasture management and livestock exclusion from surface water on Vermont farms.

Kaitlin Hayes

Kaitlin.Hayes@vermont.gov
(802) 622-4112

Grassed Waterway and Filter Strip (GWFS) Program

Technical and financial assistance for implementing buffers and seeding down critical areas on VT farms.

Sonia Howlett

Sonia.Howlett@vermont.gov
(802) 522-4655

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Implementation costs of vegetated buffers and rental payments for maintained buffers on Vermont agricultural land.

Ben Gabos

Ben.Gabos@Vermont.gov
(802) 461-3814

Phil Wilson

Phillip.Wilson@vermont.gov
(802) 505-5378

Fall 2021 (Biennial) Agricultural Clean Water Initiative Program

Grants for water quality initiatives by supporting farmers with education and outreach, technical assistance, identifying and implementing best management practices, planning, and more.

Nina Gage

Nina.Gage@vermont.gov
(802) 622-4098

Produce Safety Improvement Grants

Grants to help produce growers implement on-farm food safety practices.

Gina Clithero

Gina.Clithero@vermont.gov
(802) 585-6225

September/October Working Lands Enterprise Fund Service Provider Grants & Contracts

For service providers that support agriculture and forestry businesses.

Lynn Ellen Schimoler

LynnEllen.Schimoler@vermont.gov
(802) 622-4477

Organic Certification Cost Share Program

Partial reimbursement of direct costs for organic certification.

Terry Smith

Terry.Smith@vermont.gov
(802) 828-5667

Working Lands Enterprise Fund Business Grants

Grants to support agriculture and forestry projects.

Lynn Ellen Schimoler

LynnEllen.Schimoler@vermont.gov
(802) 622-4477

October

Dairy Food Safety & Certification Grant

Grant funding to support food safety improvements including technical assistance, audits, plan writing, and infrastructure upgrades.

Kathryn Donovan

Kathryn.Donovan@vermont.gov
(802) 585-4571

Farm to School Child Nutrition Implementation Grants

Grants for the development of farm to school programs.

Trevor Lowell

Trevor.Lowell@vermont.gov
(802) 585-9186

November

Agricultural Fair & Field Days Capital Grants And Operational Stipends

Grants for 20-year capital improvements and operational stipends for fairs and field days.

Alissa Matthews

Alissa.Matthews@vermont.gov
(802) 505-1661

January

Community Supported Agriculture Grant

Reimbursement for 80% of the cost of community supported agriculture shares for early childcare providers.

Trevor Lowell

Trevor.Lowell@vermont.gov
(802) 585-9186

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

Grants for collaborative projects to benefit multiple fruit, vegetable, honey, maple, hops, Christmas tree, or nursery crop producers or organizations

Gina Clithero

AGR.SpecialtyCrops@vermont.gov
(802) 585-6225

Vermont 4-H'ers Show Dairy Cows In New Haven

The Addison County Fair and Field Days site in New Haven was abuzz with activity on Aug. 15-16 as Vermont 4-H dairy members gathered for the State 4-H Dairy Show.

In addition to competing in fitting and showing and conformation classes, the event offered a chance to reconnect with fellow competitors after cancellation of last year's show due to the pandemic. University of Vermont (UVM) Extension 4-H sponsored the event, which attracted 39 exhibitors, ages 11-18, the majority of whom showed two animals. Jason Johnson, Northwood, New Hampshire, was the judge.

On Aug. 15, the 4-H'ers took part in a dairy quiz bowl, moderated by Judy Vaughan, an adult volunteer from Newbury. The contest was just for fun and not scored. Tunbridge volunteer Jen Thygesen reviewed how to judge a dairy animal to help prepare participants for the dairy show the following day.

The winner of the Senior Fitting and Showing Champion award was Sarah Hill, Bristol. Sylvia Johnson, Tunbridge, was named the Junior Fitting and Showing Champion. In these classes, based on the exhibitor's age, the 4-H'ers were evaluated on their poise and presentation and the handling of their animal. The winners each received a rosette ribbon and trophy, which was sponsored and awarded by Diane Norris,

Shoreham, a long-time supporter of the State 4-H Dairy Show.

Conformation classes, arranged by breed and age of the animal, were judged on the overall appearance, physical structure and condition of the animal. Championships are awarded for each breed.

Winning breed championships at this year's show were:

Ayrshire: Junior Champion and Grand Champion: Sarah Hill, Bristol, with her fall calf. Reserve Junior Champion and Reserve Grand Champion: Keenan Thygesen, Tunbridge, with his summer yearling.

Brown Swiss: Senior Champion and Grand Champion: Isabella Wilbur, Orwell, with her two-year-old cow. Junior Champion and Reserve Grand Champion: Brailey

Livingston, New Haven, with her winter calf; Reserve Junior Champion: Natalie Atkins, Lincoln, with her spring yearling.

Guernsey: Junior Champion and Grand Champion: Sylvia Johnson, Tunbridge, with her spring calf.

Holstein: Senior Champion and Grand Champion: Karissa Livingston, New Haven, with her two-year-old cow. Reserve Senior Champion and Reserve Grand Champion: Ashton Thomas, Orwell, with his three-year-old cow. Junior Champion: Tyler Slack, Bethel, with his fall calf. Reserve Junior Champion: Sarah Hill, Bristol, with her spring yearling.

Jersey: Senior Champion and Grand Champion: Abby Reen, Bristol, with her three-year-old cow. Junior Champion and Reserve

continued on page 16

116 State Street

continued from page 1

We also encourage farmers to reach out to the Vermont Farm & Forest Viability Program who can offer advice and work on business plans. You can find more information on their website <https://www.vhcb.org/viability> or by calling

802-828-1098.

Please contact Diane Bothfeld by email diane.bothfeld@vermont.gov or by phone 802-828-5667 if you have ideas to share. We do have some time, but not as much as we might like, so we will work as fast as we can to develop suggestions for these farmers.

Recipe

continued from page 2

- wipe any excess fat from the pan.
4. Add the quarter cup of butter to the pan and allow it to melt.

- Sprinkle the flour into the pan and whisk into the butter. Cook mixture for 3 minutes, whisking constantly.
5. Slowly pour the chicken broth into the pan and continue to stir. Allow the

Farewell Jon Satz

Jon Satz, owner/operator of Woods Market Garden in Brandon for 22 years, passed away on August 25 after a long illness that he battled with grace. Jon was known for his skill as a grower and for the kindness and support he provided to others in the farming world. A visit with Jon always lifted one's spirits and usually resulted in learning something. He informally advised many growers across Vermont and the region, and he also hosted dozens of farm workshops, gave great presentations at winter meetings, and collaborated on many farm research projects. He pioneered sweet corn transplanting, tested biomass heat for greenhouses, experimented with strip tillage, grew numerous cover crops, oilseed crops, and small grains over the years. He was a key player back in the day as growers figured out how organic strawberry production could be viable at commercial scale. Jon found the sweet spot of diversified greenhouse management that was high tech when needed but simple when that was sufficient.

Jon maintained a strong relationship with Bob and Sally Wood, from whom he purchased the farm, as well as with his Jamaican and local crew. He donated thousands of pounds of food to the food bank. He marketed collaboratively with other growers. We are a better community for having known Jon and he will be missed. Our hearts go to his wife Courtney, sons Emmet and Ezra, and their entire family. Share your memories with his family and friends at: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jonsatz>. To view a photo tribute to Jon's farming life, see: <https://go.uvm.edu/jonsatztribute>



- sauce to come to a boil over medium heat. Once it has come to a boil, pour the milk into the sauce, and stir well.
6. When the sauce mixture just barely returns to a boil, turn off the heat

and stir in the shredded cheese one handful at a time. Return the cooked pasta, bacon, onions, and apples to the pot. Taste, and add salt and pepper as needed. Serve hot!



Brailley Livingston, New Haven (left), the Brown Swiss Junior Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion, and Isabella Wilbur, Orwell, the Brown Swiss Senior Champion and Grand Champion, and proudly pose with show judge Jason Johnson, Northwood, New Hampshire, after their championship wins at the State 4-H Dairy Show, Aug. 16, in New Haven. (photo: Wendy Sorrell/UVM Extension 4-H)

4H Dairy Winners

continued from page 15

Grand Champion: Emma Deering, Middlebury, with her spring yearling.
Reserve Junior Champion: Elizabeth Waterman, Thetford Center, with her spring yearling.

To learn more about the UVM Extension 4-H dairy program, contact Wendy Sorrell, UVM Extension 4-H livestock educator, at wendy.sorrell@uvm.edu.



VERMONT
BEEF[®]
INDUSTRY COUNCIL

DID YOU KNOW?

Every time you sell live cattle of any age, breed, purpose or number directly to another person, you are responsible for making sure that the \$1-per-head beef checkoff assessment is sent to the Vermont Beef Industry Council.

Visit us at
vtbic.org

Vermont Beef Producers Association

Educating producers
Building cattle markets
Supporting Vermont's beef industry
Representing members statewide



Join or renew online at
www.vtbeef.org



Vermont Economic Development Authority

Financing for Vermont Farms,
Diversified Agriculture and
Forest Product Businesses

www.veda.org | (802) 828-5627